

KING COUNTY ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2001

Members Present: Linda Brown (board nominee), Nancy Code, Jim Harbaugh, Joyce Proudlock, Bob Seidensticker; Yasmin Smith,

Members Absent: Joan Clement (excused), Vicki James, Keith Williams (excused)

Staff Attending: Sherry Hamilton, Geoff Miller, Rhoda Naguit

Guests Present: Harvey Funai, State Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse; Pat Knox, Recovery Centers of King County, Al Sweeten, Seattle Indian Health Board; Sharon Toquinto, Public Health-ATOD Prevention Division

The regular meeting of the King County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board (KCASAAB) was convened at the Conference Room of the Dutch Shisler Sobering Center, 1930 Boren Avenue in Seattle. Chairman Jim Harbaugh called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m., followed by introductions of all members and guests.

I. MINUTES

Postponed review and approval of the meeting minutes of January 11, 2001.

II. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Harbaugh disclosed that at the recent executive session, the board decided to allocate five to ten minutes for any concerns or input from service provider agencies. This will be done towards the end of the board meeting on a trial basis.

A. Board Membership Recruitment/Re-appointment

Chairman Harbaugh officially welcomed Linda Brown, the latest nominee for board membership. She was appointed by the Seattle City Mayor's Office and is awaiting confirmation from the King County Council.

Rhoda reminded the board that two of its members are up for re-appointment this year. They are Nancy Code and Bob Seidensticker. Action will be taken at the regular board meeting in April.

B. Joint MH/ASAAB Meeting in March

The Board will host the next joint meeting with Mental Health Advisory Board, which falls on March 8, 2001. It will be held at the Sobering Center, 1930 Boren Avenue in Seattle from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.

The joint board will focus on the legislative advocacy efforts, particularly the proposed breakfast or lunch meeting in Olympia by Councilmember Larry Gossett.

C. Board Liaison's Report

Chairman Harbaugh reported that he attended Legislative Sub-Committee meeting held last Tuesday, February 6th. Other attendees are MHAB Chairman Willair St. Vil, and Sherry Hamilton. They discussed plans for the joint-sponsored Human Services Day scheduled for Monday, February 19th in Olympia.

The committee also discussed strategies for future legislative efforts. The legislators who are on the swing vote will be tapped. Patrick Vanzo and Geoff Miller will be responsible for reviewing and evaluating proposed chemical dependency legislation. They will notify Rhoda if letter of support is needed from both or either boards. Chairman from either boards or their respective board members may be asked to testify in Olympia, particularly on budget issues.

Geoff will put together a one-page fact sheet on Chemical Dependency funding by Monday or Tuesday. Sherry will do likewise for mental health side. She will also provide the board with a list of key legislators to thank or seek support.

III. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Biennial Planning Process Update

The last two public hearings, as part of the planning process for 2001-2003 biennium, will be held on March 2nd and 12th in Kent and Bellevue respectively from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Flyers have been sent to stakeholders and other interested parties. In addition, focus groups have been held with the System Integration Advisory Council and the Youth Treatment Service Providers. Next week, focus group will be conducted among the staff members of Assessment Center, Cedar Hills, and the division.

B. Legislative Advocacy Update

Sherry distributed some handouts containing legislative updates. She explained that the first four legislative items were issues selected by both boards. These include:

- **5051/1292**: Changing provisions relating to persons incapacitated by a chemical dependency. The department staff testified in Olympia in support of the bill.
- **5415**: Changing provisions relating to opiate substitution treatment programs. Patrick Vanzo testified in support of this bill in Olympia.
- **1380/5423**: Continuing health care benefits for individuals with disabilities or the implementation of the federal “Tickets to Work/Work Incentives Act” legislation. The Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities communities are working together on this issue.
- **1080/52/11/5271**: Requiring comparable mental health benefits. These bills seek to eliminate discriminations in coverage of mental illnesses.

Sherry noted that the proposed bills listed under treatment on demand are good, sound programs but they have no available funding to implement. Among these are providing chemical dependency services for minors, for certain offenders, for low income and for treatment alternatives for juveniles.

Other bills of note include:

- **5583**: Disparity of funding. If the 14 recommendations of the JLARC pass, King County will lose \$12M. KC supports the move to implement these recommendations but opposes the timeline.
- **1650**: Bureaucratic changes include removing the role and responsibilities of RSNs and counties and moving it to the State level.
- **1318**: This bill has the commendable intent in addressing the need of individuals with chronic mental illness but King County has concerns that the bill goes much too far in changing the rules, procedures, and safeguards of the involuntary treatment system. Anyone may file a petition with the court for outpatient commitment proceedings. No mental health evaluation is required before court hearing is held. Major impacts on courts and court costs.
- **5544**: This is a Governor Locke’s bill. DCHS position is that CDMHPs are not appropriate to function as investigators for major disruptions at schools. CDMHP are trained to do assessments of danger to self and others for involuntary commitment and have no jurisdiction for youth under 13. The Department suggested assigning forensic specialists to do assessment of this kind. In many cases, the issues are not mental health related at all.
- **5522/1629**: This bill calls for a creation of mental health ombudsman. RSN are already contractually required to have local, independent Ombuds Service. So there is no gained by this legislation. What’s lost is local access, knowledge of local resources and economy.

Pat Knox, who testified against HB 1252 in Olympia, shared her concerns about the bill. The bill opens up RCW 70.96A for some changes. Under this bill, the treatment and recovery services that are exclusively religious in nature are not subject to licensure by the Washington Department of Health or regulation by the Washington Department of Social

and Health Services, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse. This program offers only non-medical treatment and recovery methods such as prayer, moral guidance, spiritual counseling, and scriptural study. They are also not eligible to compete against a licensed program for direct federal or state treatment funding.

Pat said that one positive note is that DASA Director Ken Stark, who also testified at the hearing of this bill has offered to work with the author of this bill to add "certification" on the proposed language change.

Bob inquired if the board should continue to pursue the issue of cost effectiveness of chemical dependency treatment vs. incarceration. Geoff responded that SB 5419 is going in the direction of chemical dependency treatment vs. incarceration. There is no budget proviso attached to this bill.

Linda recommended addressing explicitly this issue of chemical dependency treatment vs. incarceration. Geoff will prepare a discussion paper on this issue for the March joint board meeting.

C. Monthly Utilization Report

Copies of the Monthly Utilization Report were distributed.

Geoff noted that ESP's utilization is on track, the King County Assessment Center is still holding steady, and the report on detox bed utilization reflects the correct figures.

Geoff mentioned changes on the contract to the detox capacity. As of February 1, 2001 there are 5 interim beds available with King County Assessment Center (KCAC) having exclusive priority for referrals into interim beds. These services are for those individuals who are delayed admission into inpatient or residential treatment, or an outpatient program due to lack of immediate capacity for admission. From February 1, 2001 to April 2, 2001, the County also added 4 acute detox beds, with exclusive priority given to referrals from KCAC. No client shall stay in an acute bed for more than six days or in a sub-acute bed for more than seven days. No Detoxification client shall stay for more than ten days total (acute and sub-acute combined) per treatment episode unless, an exception to policy is requested and granted.

Pat Knox gave a heads up that the January report of detox bed utilization would reflect lower figures due to a ten-day limit imposed on detox clients. However, she said that with the additional interim beds, detox bed utilization should be on track again.

Geoff noted that efforts to manage client flow have resulted on some initial successes. Wait lists at the King County Assessment Center are down. Client census is up and census at the residential providers is up.

D. Prevention Update

Sharon Toquinto, Prevention Program Manager, distributed copies of the Agenda for the King County Collaborative Prevention Needs Assessment to be held on February 9th at Shoreline Center. She briefly walked them through each agenda item. Geoff Miller as Acting Alcohol and Drug County Coordinator, will convene the meeting. Other presenters are Scott Waller, State DASA Region 6 Prevention Manager, and Dr. Linda Becker, State RDA Community Prevention Project Director.

Copies of the Collaborative Prevention Needs Assessment: Background Information were also distributed for reference.

E. Personnel Update

Geoff announced that Cedar Hills Addiction Treatment has a new administrator, Jodi Riley-Kauer. Jodi recently served as Alcohol/Drug County Coordinator for Lewis County and has experience managing inpatient treatment. She will attend the joint board meeting on March 8, 2001.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

Prepared by:

Attested by:

Rhoda A. Naguit
Recording Secretary

Jim Harbaugh
Chairman

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